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Item 3(a) of the provisional agenda
Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
Status of submission and review of seventh national communications and third biennial reports from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Status of submission and review of seventh national communications and third biennial reports

Note by the secretariat

1. This note provides information on the status of submission and review of seventh national communications (NCs) and third biennial reports (BRs) from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) as at 23 October 2018.

2. The Conference of the Parties (COP) requested Annex I Parties to submit their NC7s no later than four years after 1 January 2014[1] and their BR2s and subsequent BRs two years after the due date of a full NC.[2]

3. In addition, COP 17 adopted the "UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties" and decided that developed country Parties should use them for the preparation of their BRs.[3] COP 18 adopted the common tabular format (CTF) for those guidelines[4] and COP 21 decided that developed country Parties should use the format when preparing and submitting their BRs in accordance with decision 2/CP.17.[5]

4. At the time of the preparation of this note, the secretariat had received NC7s from 40 Annex I Parties. The NC7s of Belarus, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America had not yet been submitted. A total of 29 Annex I Parties submitted their NC7s before the due date of submission in accordance with decision 9/CP.16, while 11 Annex I Parties submitted their NC7s after that date (6 submitted them within six weeks after that date). All NCs received have been posted on the UNFCCC website.[6] The dates of submission and of scheduled review weeks are presented in the table below.

5. In addition, at the time of the preparation of this note, the secretariat had received 41 sets of BR3s and corresponding BR3 CTF tables from Annex I Parties. The BR3s and BR3 CTF tables of Belarus, Ukraine and the United States had not yet been submitted. A total of 31 Annex I Parties submitted their BR3s and 29 Annex I Parties submitted their BR3 CTF

[1] Decision 9/CP.16, paragraph 5.
[2] Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 13.
[3] Decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 12 and 13.
[4] Decision 19/CP.18, paragraph 1.
[5] Decision 9/CP.21, paragraph 8.
[6] http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/10138.php.

tables before the due date of submission in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, while 10 Annex I Parties submitted their BR3s and 12 Annex I Parties submitted their BR3 CTF tables of that date (4 Annex I Parties submitted their BR3s and 5 submitted their BR3 CTF tables within six weeks after that date). All BR3s and BR3 CTF tables received have been posted on the UNFCCC website.[7] The dates of submission and of scheduled review weeks are presented in the table below.

6. COP 20 decided that the "Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention" should be used for the review of BR2s starting in 2016 and for subsequent reviews of BRs and NCs until any revisions are decided upon by the COP.[8] Those guidelines state that, in the years in which NCs and BRs are submitted together, both will be subject to an in-country review and that Annex I Parties with total emissions of less than 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (excluding land use, land-use change and forestry) according to their most recent greenhouse gas inventory submission, with the exception of Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, may choose for their NCs to undergo a centralized review.[9]

7. As at 23 October 2018, the secretariat had coordinated 22 in-country in-depth reviews of NC7s and BR3s. In accordance with the provision referred to in paragraph 6 above, centralized reviews of NC7s and BR3s were organized by the secretariat for 10 Parties: Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Slovakia and Slovenia.

[7] http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/submitted_biennial_reports/items/10132.php.

[8] Decision 13/CP.20, paragraph 2.

[9] Decision 13/CP.20, annex, paragraphs 18 and 116.

Dates of submission of seventh national communications and third biennial reports and dates of scheduled review weeks as at 23 October 2018

Annex I Party	*Date(s) national communication received*	*Date(s) biennial report received*	*Date common tabular format tables received*	*Language of submission*	*Dates of review week*	*Report published*	*Document symbol*
Australia	28 Dec. 2017 4 May 2018 15 June 2018	28 Dec. 2017 4 May 2018 15 June 2018	28 Dec. 2017 14 May 2018 31 May 2018	English	28 May to 2 June 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/AUS FCCC/TRR.3/AUS
Austria	8 Feb. 2018	28 Dec. 2017 8 Feb. 2018	28 Dec. 2017	English	28 Jan. to 2 Feb. 2019	-	
Belarus	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted		–	-	
Belgium	20 Dec. 2017	20 Dec. 2017	20 Dec. 2017	English	25–31 Mar. 2019	-	
Bulgaria	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	English	4–9 Feb. 2019	-	
Canada	29 Dec. 2017 5 March 2018	29 Dec. 2017 5 March 2018	29 Dec. 2017 5 Mar. 2018	English French	9–14 April 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/CAN FCCC/TRR.3/CAN
Croatia	2 May 2018 1 Oct. 2018	2 May 2018 1 Oct. 2018	2 May 2018	English	21–26 May 2018	Under preparation	
Cyprus	22 Feb. 2018	22 Feb. 2018	26 Feb. 2018	English	21–26 May 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/CYP FCCC/TRR.3/CYP
Czechia	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/CZE FCCC/TRR.3/CZE
Denmark	1 Jan. 2018 21 Jan. 2018	1 Jan. 2018 21 Jan. 2018	1 Jan. 2018 10 Oct. 2018	English	24–29 Sept. 2018	Under preparation	
Estonia	30 Dec. 2017 9 Mar. 2018	29 Dec. 2017 9 Mar. 2018	29 Dec. 2017	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/EST FCCC/TRR.3/EST
European Union	19 Dec. 2017	19 Dec. 2017	19 Dec. 2017	English	5–10 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/EU FCCC/TRR.3/EU
Finland	13 Dec. 2017	13 Dec. 2017	13 Dec. 2017	English	19–24 March 2018	Under preparation	
France	29 Dec. 2017 22 Feb. 2018	28 Dec. 2017 22 Feb. 2018	12 Jan. 2018 (English)	French English	9–14 April 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/FRA FCCC/TRR.3/FRA

Annex I Party	*Date(s) national communication received*	*Date(s) biennial report received*	*Date common tabular format tables received*	*Language of submission*	*Dates of review week*	*Report published*	*Document symbol*
Germany	20 Dec. 2017	20 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/DEU FCCC/TRR.3/DEU
Greece	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	English	4–9 Feb. 2019	-	
Hungary	10 Jan. 2018	10 Jan. 2018	10 Jan. 2018	English	19–24 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/HUN FCCC/TRR.3/HUN
Iceland	16 March 2018 21 Mar. 2018	16 March 2018 29 Jan. 2018	12 Feb. 2018	English	17–22 Sept. 2018	Under preparation	
Ireland	30 March 2018	30 March 2018	30 March 2018	English	4–10 Nov. 2018	-	
Italy	22 Dec. 2017 19 Jan. 2018	24 Dec. 2017	24 Dec. 2017	English	21–26 May 2018	Under preparation	
Japan	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	English	28 May to 2 June 2018	Under preparation	
Kazakhstan	31 Dec. 2017	31 Dec. 2017	1 Jan. 2018	English	Planning in progress	-	
Latvia	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/LVA FCCC/TRR.3/LVA
Liechtenstein	20 Dec. 2017	20 Dec. 2017	20 Dec. 2017	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/LIE FCCC/TRR.3/LIE
Lithuania	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	3 Jan. 2018	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/LTU FCCC/TRR.3/LTU
Luxembourg	11 Feb. 2018	28 Feb. 2018	28 Feb. 2018	English	12–17 Nov. 2018		
Malta	12 Feb. 2018	12 Feb. 2018	13 Feb. 2018	English	21–26 May 2018	Under preparation	
Monaco	12 Feb. 2018	14 Feb. 2018	14 Feb. 2018	French	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/MCO FCCC/TRR.3/MCO
Netherlands	29 Dec. 2017 14 Feb. 2018	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017 14 Feb. 2018 7 Mar. 2018	English	5–10 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/NLD FCCC/TRR.3/NLD

Annex I Party	*Date(s) national communication received*	*Date(s) biennial report received*	*Date common tabular format tables received*	*Language of submission*	*Dates of review week*	*Report published*	*Document symbol*
New Zealand	21 Dec. 2017	21 Dec. 2017	21 Dec. 2017	English	18–23 Feb. 2019	-	
Norway	29 Jan. 2018 18 Apr. 2018	29 Jan. 2018 18 Apr. 2018	29 Jan. 2018 18 Apr. 2018	English	16–21 April 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/NOR FCCC/TRR.3/NOR
Poland	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	English	11–16 June 2018	Under preparation	
Portugal	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	English	18–23 Feb. 2019	-	
Romania	27 Dec. 2017	27 Dec. 2017	27 Dec. 2017	English	4–9 June 2018	Under preparation	
Russian Federation	29 Dec. 2017	29 Dec. 2017	31 Dec. 2017 (English)	Russian	1–6 Oct. 2018	Under preparation	
Slovakia	15 Dec. 2017	15 Dec. 2017	15 Dec. 2017	English	12–17 March 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/SVK FCCC/TRR.3/SVK
Slovenia	13 March 2018	13 March 2018	13 March 2018	English	21–26 May 2018	Published	FCCC/IDR.7/SVN FCCC/TRR.3/SVN
Spain	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	Spanish	28 May to 2 June 2018	Under preparation	
Sweden	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017	22 Dec. 2017 19 Jan. 2018	English	17–22 Sept. 2018	Under preparation	
Switzerland	19 Dec. 2017	19 Dec. 2017	19 Dec. 2017	English	18–23 Mar. 2019	-	
Turkey	Not yet submitted	1 Jan. 2018	1 Jan. 2018	English	18–23 Mar. 2019		
Ukraine	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted		–		
United Kingdom	30 Dec. 2017	30 Dec. 2017	30 Dec. 2017	English	4–9 June 2018	Under preparation	
United States	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted		–		

Note: Only review dates that had been agreed by the time of the publication of this note are specified in this table; the planning of the remaining reviews was in progress.

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Item 18 of the provisional agenda
Gender and climate change

Differentiated impacts of climate change and gender-responsive climate policy and action, and policies, plans and progress in enhancing gender balance in national delegations

Workshop report by the secretariat

Summary

The differentiated impacts of climate change and gender-responsive climate policy and action, as well as policies, plans and progress in enhancing gender balance in national delegations were the focus of a two-part workshop held in Bonn on 2 and 9 May 2018, during the first part of the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. After various presentations on case studies and good practice examples the discussions focused on the availability of sex-disaggregated data, on gender analysis as a prerequisite for effective climate policy and action, and on strengthening governance structures, measures and financing to achieve improved gender balance. The participants split into working groups to exchange relevant experiences and to brainstorm ideas for future action, and the workshop concluded with each group presenting a summary of challenges and recommendations.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. At its twenty-second session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to continue and enhance the Lima work programme on gender, including by holding an annual workshop in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies in the first sessional period of 2018 and 2019.[1] The COP also requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to develop a gender action plan for consideration at COP 23. Subsequently, COP 23 established the gender action plan and decided the topics of the annual in-session workshop on gender and climate change.[2]

2. For the in-session workshop held in 2018, the topics were based on activity E.1 under priority area E ("Monitoring and reporting") of the gender action plan, which calls upon Parties and observer organizations to make submissions, including sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis where applicable, on:

(a) Information on the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples;

(b) The integration of gender considerations into adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, Action for Climate Empowerment, technology and finance policies, plans and actions;

(c) Policies and plans for and progress made in enhancing gender balance in national climate delegations.

3. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the in-session workshop for consideration at its forty-ninth session.[3]

B. Scope of the report

4. This report provides a summary of the presentations and working group discussions that took place at the workshop referred to in paragraph 2 above.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI may wish to take note of the information contained in this report in its consideration of the implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and the associated gender action plan.

II. Summary

6. The workshop aimed to:

(a) Raise awareness of the differentiated impacts of climate change, including how to identify such differences and address them in policy and action design and implementation;

(b) Build the capacity of participants to understand the tools and mechanisms that facilitate the design and implementation of gender-responsive climate policy and action;

[1] Decision 21/CP.22.
[2] Decision 3/CP.23.
[3] FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 126.

(c) Raise awareness of the existing options for enhancing gender balance in national delegations to intergovernmental meetings and provide an opportunity for Party delegates and observers to brainstorm on how to implement such options.

7. While numerous challenges and gaps were identified in integrating gender considerations in climate policy and action, including a lack of awareness of the need for gender-responsive climate policy and action at the national level, institutional and technical capacity to integrate gender considerations, challenges in collecting sex-disaggregated data, sufficient financial resource allocation and political commitment, the workshop also included case studies that illustrated successes and achievements.

8. Through the sharing of experience and information by representatives of countries and organizations, workshop participants were introduced to methodologies, tools and expertise across different climate change related sectors that policymakers and project developers can use to identify the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, as well as to address such differences in the design and implementation of climate policy and action. This included: methods for the collection of sex-disaggregated data; tools for gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting, gender assessments and inclusive stakeholder engagement; and tailored institutional arrangements and approaches.

9. The sharing of experience related to increasing women's representation and meaningful participation clearly illustrated that numerous options are available to countries committed to achieving and sustaining equal participation of women and men in the UNFCCC process and in dealing with climate change in general.

III. Workshop structure and participation

10. The first in-session workshop on gender and climate change was held in Bonn in two parts on 2 and 9 May 2018, respectively, during the first part of the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. It was open to all Parties, observers and the media.

11. Part I of the workshop, which focused on differentiated impacts of climate change and gender-responsive climate policy and action, was moderated by Ms. Lisa Gittos (Australia); and part II, which focused on policies, plans and progress in enhancing gender balance in national delegations, was moderated by Ms. Penda Kante-Thiam (Senegal) and Mr. Colin O'Hehir (Ireland).

12. The workshop was formally opened and closed by the Chair of the SBI, Mr. Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini (Eswatini).

13. Ms. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and now President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, was a special guest at part II of the workshop.

14. The presentations, webcasts, links to submissions and relevant background documents related to the workshop are available on the UNFCCC website.[4]

IV. Proceedings of the workshop

15. This chapter provides an overview of the proceedings of the workshop and details on each session held under parts I and II of the workshop.

[4] Presentations and agendas are available via https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/events-meetings/workshop-on-gender-and-climate-change. The webcast of part I is available at https://unfccc-sb48.cloud.streamworld.de/webcast/sbi-gender-in-session-workshop-part-1 and https://unfccc-sb48.cloud.streamworld.de/webcast/sbi-gender-in-session-workshop-part-1-continued. The webcast of part II is available at https://unfccc-sb48.cloud.streamworld.de/webcast/sbi-gender-in-session-workshop-part-2.

A. Overview of proceedings

16. The opening and closing of the workshop featured remarks by the Chair of the SBI, who highlighted the need to maintain the momentum and continue the progress being made in relation to gender and climate change. He noted that the workshop was a good opportunity to take stock of current progress in the implementation of the various approaches outlined in the gender action plan and would therefore make an important contribution to the review of the implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and its associated gender action plan to be undertaken by COP 25 in November 2019.

1. Part I: differentiated impacts of climate change and gender-responsive climate policy and action

17. Session I of part I of the workshop featured presentations by experts with first-hand experience in collecting and using sex-disaggregated data; the presentations highlighted the importance of such data for effective policymaking and identified gaps in the current collection of data. During session II, Parties and experts shared their experience in applying gender analysis and gender budgeting, and considered the impact of such approaches on gender-responsive climate policy and action. Session III provided Parties with an opportunity to present their respective national governance and coordination mechanisms for facilitating gender-responsive climate policy and action.

18. During session IV, participants split into three working groups to discuss the topics mentioned in paragraph 0 above and reported back to the plenary afterwards.

2. Part II: policies, plans and progress in enhancing gender balance in national delegations

19. Session I of part II of the workshop provided an overview of the secretariat's technical paper "Achieving the goal of gender balance",[5] as well as examples of progress made in that area within the United Nations system, insights from recipients of support under the Women Delegates Fund (WDF)[6] and good practices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in encouraging gender parity in IPU processes and in national delegations to IPU meetings.

20. Session II was moderated by Ms. Robinson and gave Parties the opportunity to share their experiences with the implementation of policies and plans designed to promote gender balance. This was followed by a working group session in which each group considered one of the recommendations from the technical paper mentioned in paragraph 15 above. The working groups then reported back to the plenary and presented the key messages from their discussions.

B. Part I, session I: The why and how of sex-disaggregated data in identifying differentiated impacts and informing climate policy and action (including local communities and indigenous peoples)

21. Presentations showcasing current efforts to collect sex-disaggregated data and the sources used, including reflections on the importance of such data for informed and effective policymaking across different sectors, were given as follows:

(a) Ms. Lorena Aguilar, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), spoke about efforts to enhance gender statistics and indicators in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[5] FCCC/TP/2017/8.

[6] The WDF is a voluntary fund, managed by the Women's Environment and Development Organization, which supports women from developing countries. More information is available at https://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-programs/women-delegates-fund/.

(b) Mr. Markus Ihalainen, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), spoke about sex-disaggregated data in relation to policy and action on REDD-plus,[7] forests, trees and agroforestry;

(c) Ms. Verona Collantes-Lebale, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), spoke about turning promises into action with regard to gender equality in the 2030 Agenda;

(d) Ms. Liva Kaugure, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), spoke about the role of sex-disaggregated data in identifying differentiated impacts and informing climate change policy and action.

22. To set the scene, Ms. Aguilar first drew attention to the failure to take due account of gender considerations in data collection across various sectors relevant to climate change policy and action. The strikingly low priority given to gender considerations in national strategies and planning documents was evident from the various analyses carried out by IUCN of nationally determined contributions (NDCs); national biodiversity strategies and action plans; country action agendas under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative; national implementation plans under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;[8] and national energy frameworks. Nevertheless, conducting such analyses had encouraged the subsequent adoption of gender-responsive policies. For example, following a pilot project on gender mainstreaming, references to gender issues in national biodiversity strategies and action plans had increased from 0 to 37 for Brazil, from 21 to 203 for Mexico and from 18 to 211 for Uganda.

23. Ms. Aguilar further observed that, although 65 Parties mentioned gender issues in their intended nationally determined contributions, those countries were responsible for only 19 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, all Annex I Parties had failed to include gender considerations in their intended nationally determined contributions and their NDCs. Research by IUCN had further revealed that women were most commonly identified as a vulnerable group in national strategies and planning documents, and that policymakers struggled to recognize their potential role as agents of change.

24. The CIFOR and FAO experts spoke about the use of sex-disaggregated data in the forestry and agriculture sectors, respectively. They highlighted the fact that gender issues were often neglected in policymaking and that there was a general lack of timely and comprehensive sex-disaggregated data of relevance to environmental work. Such data needed to be collected more systematically and consistently, especially to fill a gap at the national level. Moreover, the data had to be nuanced and context-specific to allow for effective climate change policy and action.

25. All the speakers emphasized that for sex-disaggregated data to be truly informative, it was essential to look beyond the household sphere and the binary female/male and to take into account interdependencies with other influencing factors, such as age, place of residence, ethnicity and social class. Furthermore, sex-disaggregated data were a critical input to, but not a substitute for, gender analysis. The experts argued that gender analysis was indispensable to the planning and implementation of effective climate change policy and to the design of relevant projects, because it helped to ensure equal participation by everyone, as well as an equitable distribution of the burdens arising from climate change. Gender analysis also helped to promote the changes required to achieve the goal of gender equality. Since gender and gender norms, however, were context-specific and not static, it was necessary to address gender considerations within the individual context of each policy, plan or measure.

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[7] In decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, the COP encouraged developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

[8] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

26. Although there was a lack of consistent sex-disaggregated data, especially of data that enabled comparisons over time or between different contexts, there were also pockets of valuable information and, in fact, a large amount of potentially useful data was being generated. The duplication of efforts could be avoided through improved communication and information-sharing between governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, private sector actors and United Nations system entities. The experts further emphasized that Parties could leverage existing capacities to enhance the methodologies for data collection and analysis, and for the validation of results, as well as to improve policy recommendations based on those results, by forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders. In addition, existing national mechanisms, such as cluster surveys, labour-force surveys and household surveys, could be used and adapted to obtain the required sex-disaggregated data of relevance to climate change policy and action. Finally, it was noted that the collection of data should ideally be aligned with, and take account of, international indicators.

27. Relevant data sources and projects identified by the experts included:

(a) An IUCN and United Nations Environment Programme project on the development of gender and environment indicators in connection with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) The IUCN Environment and Gender Information platform, which includes 15 data sets related to gender and environment, local-level data and analyses of national reports and strategies;[9]

(c) The Gender and Renewable Energy Platform, which provides information and best practice examples on how to integrate gender considerations into renewable energy projects and policies;[10]

(d) The Sustainable Energy for All People-Centred Accelerator, which is a platform and network for stakeholders interested in enhancing gender equality, social inclusion, and women's empowerment in the sustainable energy sector;[11]

(e) The flagship report of UN Women entitled "Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which highlights gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective;[12]

(f) The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics – a collaboration between the Government of Mexico, that country's National Institute of Statistics and Geography and UN Women – which fosters research, innovation, cooperation and exchange of experience to support the effective implementation and monitoring of gender equality under the 2030 Agenda and in national policies;

(g) The briefs on gender and climate change and forests published by CIFOR, which contain many valuable insights and recommendations;[13]

(h) CGIAR, which provides a great deal of information on gender and food security and offers various relevant resources (e.g. toolkits for surveys and the collection of sex-disaggregated data);[14]

(i) FAO, which has developed a number of tools for generating sex-disaggregated data and for integrating gender considerations in weather and climate services (developed together with the World Meteorological Organization and partners),[15]

[9] Available at http://genderandenvironment.org/egi/.

[10] Available at http://genderandenvironment.org/energy/.

[11] Available at https://www.seforall.org/connecting-partners/accelerators/people-centered-accelerator.

[12] Available at http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018.

[13] Available at https://www.cifor.org/gender/gender-and-climate-change/.

[14] Available at https://ccafs.cgiar.org/resources/tools-maps-models-and-data#.W4ZQp2fsmUm.

[15] See: World Meteorological Organization. 2015. *Conference Report: Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services, 5–7 November 2014, Geneva, Switzerland*. Geneva:

and – in the context of climate change in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and aquaculture – in NDCs, national adaptation plans and investment plans (developed together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)). Further relevant FAO resources include voluntary guidelines on small-scale sustainable fisheries, land tenure and sustainable soil management; a toolkit and framework for collecting agriculture and gender statistics in different regions; and the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy toolbox, which provides a multisectoral approach to dealing with diverse challenges faced by people in displacement settings, including displacement caused by climate change.[16]

C. Part I, session II: Gender analysis and budgeting as the foundation of gender-responsive climate policy and action

28. Experiences with different instruments used for gender analysis and budgeting were shared by:

(a) Ms. Pavlina Zdraveva, UNDP Country Office, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, who spoke about gender analysis in relation to climate policy and planning in her country;

(b) Mr. Elias Abourizk (Canada), who spoke about gender budgeting in his country's climate policy;

(c) Ms. Jeniffer Collado (Dominican Republic), who spoke about gender analysis in relation to her country's NDC;

(d) Ms. Gotelind Alber, GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, who spoke about gender impact assessment and how the Gender Assessment and Monitoring of Mitigation and Adaptation (GAMMA) methodology had been used in Germany, India, Indonesia and South Africa.

29. Ms. Zdraveva explained how, by using the UNDP toolkit on gender-responsive national communications,[17] and with assistance provided under the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties,[18] the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had been able to take the first steps towards the integration of gender considerations in its climate policy, as well as in its national communications and biennial update reports. Gender and climate change policy in her country had originally been treated as separate areas without taking into account their cross-cutting nature. During a workshop held in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, countries from the region had worked through the steps outlined in the UNDP toolkit, notably preparing a gender and climate change profile, establishing priority sectors and identifying missing data and possible indicators. This had made it possible to agree on the elements of a relevant action plan for each country, as well as to prepare a draft "Balkan action plan" for the region. The next steps included earmarking funds for gender-specific activities, developing gender-sensitive indicators, and continuing regional collaboration, knowledge exchange and capacity-building aimed at governmental institutions and civil society organizations.

30. Mr. Abourizk argued that applying a gender lens to the budgeting process (i.e. 'gender budgeting') could influence the direction of policy, as it enabled policymakers to understand better how their policy decisions would affect different people. In 2018,

World Meteorological Organization. Available at https://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1148_en.pdf.

[16] See: FAO. 2016. *Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Toolbox: Woodfuel Assessment in Displacement Settings. User guide*. Rome: FAO. Available at http://www.fao.org/gender/resources/publications/en/.

[17] See: UNDP. 2015. *Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit*. New York: UNDP. Available at http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-responsive-national-communications.html.

[18] See further information at http://www.un-gsp.org/about-global-support-programme.

Canada had used an analytical tool called Gender-based Analysis Plus for all aspects of the national budget-making process.

31. Ms. Collado discussed the work undertaken to draw up a climate change gender action plan for the Dominican Republic, which had been supported by IUCN and the United States Agency for International Development. The challenges encountered had been similar to those mentioned in earlier workshop presentations (e.g. missing data and limited capacities). Successes included the establishment of a coordination committee and collaborative workshops, which had made it possible to propose various measures falling under three main categories: policy frameworks, data generation and capacity needs. After they had been identified, those measures had to be aligned with the relevant institutions' strategic planning and programmatic action plans in order to secure international funding. The activities in question would help her country to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

32. Ms. Alber presented the GAMMA methodology, which was being developed by GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice under its Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative and consisted of three separate tools:

(a) GAMMA I – a tool for the assessment of climate change institutions and their capacity and preparedness to address gender issues;

(b) GAMMA II – a tool for the assessment of climate action programmes with an emphasis on identifying potential co-benefits related to gender equality and on evaluating those programmes' priorities from a gender perspective;

(c) GAMMA III or Gender Impact Assessment – a tool for the assessment of specific climate policies and measures.

33. A common theme in all the presentations was the importance of having access to sex-disaggregated data in order to facilitate gender analysis and gender budgeting. Although the lack of data was a challenge, the process of gender analysis served to clarify where the gaps were to be found and what data were required.

34. The speakers noted that one of the major challenges in applying gender analysis to climate policy and budgeting was the limited understanding of gender considerations in the environmental sector, both within institutions responsible for environmental policy and within those in charge of gender policy. Another significant challenge was unfavourable institutional and fiscal structures. Those challenges could be overcome by establishing new channels of communication, by facilitating the exchange of information and collaboration among the various ministries and departments concerned, and by involving all those stakeholders in the process of climate change planning.

D. Part I, session III: Governance and coordination mechanisms to facilitate gender-responsive climate policy and action

35. Ms. Diann Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda) and Mr. Antwi-Boasiako Amoah (Ghana) highlighted the need for structured approaches to the integration of gender issues in climate policy, as well as the importance of stakeholder buy-in, inclusive dialogue and tailored approaches to fit each country's individual situation.

36. Based on the experience of Antigua and Barbuda, Ms. Black-Layne argued that gender differences, on account of them being a social construct, varied from country to country, which meant that a generalized statement about the position of women and men in society could not be applied to all countries. Gender norms and the expectations placed on women and men in different societies, notably with regard to their access to resources and their ability to participate in decision-making, were bound to vary. Gender analysis was therefore crucial in ensuring that gender relations were accurately identified for the specific context of individual countries and that the policies and measures taken in response to climate change were appropriate to each country's context.

37. Mr. Amoah explained that gender considerations had previously been well represented in Ghana's climate-relevant policies and plans, but that, despite those earlier

efforts, the emphasis on gender equality in his country's NDC was insufficient. To address those shortcomings, Ghana had established a cross-sectoral working group on gender, which was co-chaired by the Gender Department of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection and by the Environmental Protection Agency. The working group would support all activities undertaken by Ghana through the NDC Support Programme of UNDP. In addition, all relevant gender and climate change institutions had been identified and were involved in the work on NDC preparation undertaken by the National Climate Change Committee. Ghana was determined to incorporate gender-responsive approaches into its institutional framework for NDC implementation.

E. Part I, sessions IV and V: Working groups and reporting back

38. After dividing into working groups, the participants considered the main topics of each of the previous sessions, rotating from one topic to the next until each group had discussed all three topics. Each group selected a rapporteur to report back to the workshop plenary.

1. Sex-disaggregated data

39. The participants drew attention to the lack of, and a concurrent urgent need for, robust sex-disaggregated data, especially in the environment and energy sectors. They shared their diverse experiences with the collection of sex-disaggregated data in the relevant sectors at the national level. Whereas some countries currently did not gather any sex-disaggregated data, others had started to collect such data for certain areas (e.g. water and biomass consumption, health and land tenure). Yet other countries were collecting sex-disaggregated data only in relation to projects undertaken overseas but not in their own national contexts.

40. The working groups identified the following priority areas for collecting sex-disaggregated data: vulnerability, transport use, the agriculture sector (including access to, and ownership of, resources), consumption patterns, migration movements, participation in policy and project planning and implementation, decision-making at all levels, and productive and reproductive labour (including family caregiving).

41. Although the importance of sex-disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking was seen to be irrefutable, the working groups agreed that key indicators and data needs had to be considered carefully. In particular, the cost implications and time intervals of national surveys had to be taken into account, because those often did not match the time demands of swift and responsive policy design. Moreover, sex-disaggregated data were being generated by a diverse group of stakeholders and might in some cases already be available. Countries therefore had to be careful to avoid duplication of efforts. The discussions highlighted the need for a systematic approach for collecting sex-disaggregated data, for making such data available, and for consolidating the data. It was also pointed out that data might be available for different sectors, and the specific example of a literature review of gender and transport in industrialized countries, based on over 500 scholarly articles, was cited. Support was also expressed for preparing a report on gender and climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

42. Furthermore, the participants called for alternative ways of collecting sex-disaggregated data to be considered, including making use of existing initiatives (e.g. REDD-plus and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) and collaborating with the private sector (e.g. in telecommunications), as well as with academia. Data scarcity was not unique to the nexus of gender and environment issues. Although there were gaps in national data, sufficient data were already available to inform gender-responsive climate change policy and action. Alternatives to national data (e.g. the extrapolation of local data, the use of proxies, cross-analysis of existing data) could be used to avoid delays in implementing relevant measures and activities.

43. The working group discussions also made it clear that high-quality, evidence-based policy and project design could only be achieved through gender analysis and that data alone would not guarantee success. Data needed to be presented to policymakers in a

comprehensible form, and sufficient resources had to be dedicated to data collection and analysis. Finally, it was noted that the success of policies and projects also required the inclusion of adequate safeguards, and that monitoring and evaluation should be undertaken.

2. Gender analysis

44. The participants agreed that gender analysis and gender budgeting needed to be applied in combination in order to achieve smart outcomes, reduce inequalities and help to identify and achieve priorities in climate change policy and action. Carrying out gender analysis during the initial stages of policymaking helped to avoid discriminatory policies. Gender budgeting could help to ensure that national budgets supported well-balanced programmes based on and aligned with the relevant national climate policies.

3. Governance and coordination mechanisms

45. The participants drew attention to several key steps in establishing favourable governance and coordination mechanisms, including the identification of roles and interlinkages within ministries, oversight bodies and other stakeholders when considering how to build on existing structures and deciding whether those needed to be strengthened or reformed. For example, Indonesia and Fiji had started to strengthen their gender policies in various ministries. The COP 23 Presidency and the secretariat had both recently reminded Parties of how the COP had invited Parties to nominate national focal points for gender and climate change, emphasizing that the role of those focal points needed to be defined.

46. Successful examples of cooperation and collaboration were shared, including the establishment of a focal point for climate and gender under the President's Office in the Gambia and an active Gender and Development Office under the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Marshall Islands encouraging other ministries in the country to integrate gender considerations into their policies and strategies. Participants from Senegal and Chad shared examples of how Parties could improve collaboration with civil society by creating enabling environments and contributing to capacity-building initiatives. It was also pointed out that countries could consider the recommendations on public participation and engagement of civil society set out in human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

47. The working groups agreed that the capacity of governments to perform gender budgeting should be enhanced because that made it possible to gain an overview of what was already being done in terms of gender and climate change policies and action, and to strengthen relevant interlinkages.

48. The participants also made a general recommendation that further opportunities should be provided to share national experiences and to exchange knowledge related to gender and climate change, along the lines of the working group sessions in which they had just taken part.

F. Part II, session I: Setting the scene

49. The scene was set for working group discussions on policies, plans and progress in enhancing gender balance in national delegations, with presentations given by:

(a) A representative of the secretariat on a technical paper on achieving gender balance as part of the UNFCCC process;[19]

(b) Ms. Verona Collantes-Lebale from UN Women on relevant statistics and information compiled by the United Nations Governing Bodies Secretariat;[20]

[19] FCCC/TP/2017/8.

[20] The United Nations Governing Bodies Secretariat is a network of 34 United Nations system entities that meets annually in an informal session to discuss issues specific to the governance of their respective organizations.

(c) Ms. Stella Gama (Malawi) and Ms. Chrisda Kaeti (Kiribati) on their experiences with the WDF;

(d) Ms. Mariana Duarte Mutzenberg from the IPU on the milestones achieved and lessons learned in relation to IPU strategies to advance gender equality in governance and delegations.

50. The secretariat provided a brief introduction to mandates and decisions relating to gender balance in the UNFCCC process, noting that progress had been slow and drawing attention to the main recommendations of the technical paper on gender balance mentioned in paragraph 15 above. Those recommendations included measures that Parties could take when drawing up and implementing strategies to achieve the goal of gender balance, focusing on areas such as capacity-building and awareness-raising, networking and the exchange of experience, funding and temporary special measures.

51. Ms. Collantes-Lebale presented the findings of a report that the United Nations Governing Bodies Secretariat had been inspired to prepare by developments in the UNFCCC process. As highlighted in the report, the participation of women in the delegations to intergovernmental meetings remained low. Although 21 United Nations system entities had gender policies and strategies in place, only 13 of them actually tracked women's participation in their respective processes and only 2 had set targets for women's representation in their governing bodies. A survey undertaken after the publication of the report had focused on best practices and possible improvements. Responses to that survey had revealed that the types of sex-disaggregated data being monitored (e.g. heads of delegations, facilitators, interventions at high-level meetings, composition of bodies) varied greatly among United Nations system entities.

52. Ms. Gama and Ms. Kaeti emphasized that the training provided through the WDF had facilitated their familiarization with the UNFCCC process. Moreover, because of limited funding at the national level, the travel assistance also provided through the WDF had been crucial in enabling them to participate regularly in sessions of the subsidiary bodies and of the COP. They hoped that financial contributions to the WDF could be increased so that existing beneficiaries could continue to participate regularly in the UNFCCC process, and so that more women from the least developed countries (LDCs) could benefit from such assistance.

53. Ms. Gama observed how the targeted training events organized for women delegates under the WDF, including those sponsored by the Fund itself, had empowered her to participate in, and contribute to, decision-making processes at the global and national level in a meaningful and effective manner. The training had raised her confidence and expanded her knowledge of climate negotiations and climate diplomacy. She was now a lead negotiator for the LDCs group and played an important role in advancing the gender and climate change agenda in her country; she had also been elected to the Technology Executive Committee and appointed as a co-facilitator of informal negotiations under the UNFCCC process.

54. Ms. Gama and Ms. Kaeti both stressed the importance of the networking aspect of the WDF. In particular, Ms. Gama noted that more opportunities had been opened up to her as a result of her expanding network; she had also become involved in training junior negotiators. Ms. Kaeti emphasized how helpful it was to be able to exchange experiences with other similarly dedicated women from her region.

55. Ms. Mutzenberg discussed the key factors that had allowed the IPU to increase the percentage of female delegates participating in the IPU Assembly from around 17 per cent in the 1990s to around 30 per cent in recent years. The IPU had built a strong policy framework around the principle of gender equality and had used that foundation to 'multiply' the message by integrating it in key policies and to increase visibility (e.g. through clear messages on gender issues from IPU leaders, including men). One major driving factor had been the establishment of a group of male and female members of the Executive Committee, known as the Gender Partnership Group, which had pushed for, and reported on, progress towards gender equality. Those efforts had resulted in the adoption of the IPU gender mainstreaming strategy in 2013.

56. Those positive developments in the IPU had been directly and indirectly supported by the existence of a strong women's movement, which confirmed that discourse on gender equality – both within and outside an organization, both informal and formalized – could stimulate efforts to achieve gender parity.

57. Critical drivers of success in the work of the IPU Gender Partnership Group had been the adoption of an inclusive, consultative and incremental approach, which had also involved setting clear and attainable targets. Specific gender parity goals had been established for the various IPU bodies, as well as for the Governing Body and the Assembly. Failure to fulfil those numerical targets led to sanctions, including the 'naming and shaming' of single-sex delegations.

58. As part of the incremental approach, gender quotas for existing IPU bodies were reviewed on the basis of progress made towards a 50/50 target, while newly established bodies started with a 50 per cent requirement. Sanctions for non-fulfilment included delegations being reduced from three to two members if a minimum representation of 30 per cent from either sex was not attained. The sanctions were intensified if delegations missed that target more than three times in a row. The key to the success of such sanctions was active and open dialogue with delegations that failed to comply, as well as clear communication on the purpose of the gender mainstreaming strategy.

59. Although first successes in terms of gender parity were becoming visible, the IPU acknowledged the need for continuous efforts to reach true parity, as well as for moving beyond a focus on numbers in order to address the issue of ensuring meaningful representation for women. The IPU had thus recently decided to monitor the composition of panels, the representation of women in leadership positions and the speaking time accorded to women.

G. Part II, session II: Experience with policies and plans

60. The second session was moderated by Ms. Robinson, who drew attention to the persisting unequal representation of women and men at sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies, as well as in the UNFCCC process in general. In her view, some of the measures adopted by the IPU could also be considered in the context of the United Nations climate change negotiations.

61. Ms. Dawn Pritchard (Canada), Ms. Una May Gordon (Jamaica) and Mr. Hamid Abakar Souleymane (Chad) provided a number of relevant examples, including a national policy to improve gender parity, national measures to improve gender balance that were also aimed at indigenous peoples and a regional initiative. The examples made it clear that each country had a different starting point and that capacity-building, networking and mentoring could all greatly help to improve gender parity.

62. Ms. Pritchard explained that as a representative of the Métis Nation she had been invited to join the Canadian delegation to the United Nations climate change negotiations and had subsequently been involved in establishing the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. She welcomed the fact that, through such participation, the interests of an indigenous people could be brought to the table via a negotiator who genuinely understood and represented them. At the same time, though, she was concerned that indigenous peoples elsewhere might not enjoy the same support as the Métis Nation in Canada. She further emphasized how female and indigenous delegates could benefit from training on participation in the UNFCCC process.

63. Ms. Gordon introduced the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership, a regional network that compiled statistics on gender equality, carried out research and provided training and mentoring for young female politicians.

64. Mr. Souleymane shared details of the implementation of the commitment made by the Government of Chad to reach 30 per cent representation of women across all government departments by 2030 and to achieve complete gender balance by 2050. Following the most recent election, 9 out of 24 ministers were women. Additionally, the representation of women in the interministerial group on climate change had increased from

zero female members in 2014 to 9 female members (out of a total of 24 members) in 2018. Moreover, the five-person delegation of Chad to the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies included two women. Chad had integrated gender issues in its national adaptation plan and NDC and was further planning to organize training sessions and outreach activities for women. The greatest challenge for participation in climate change negotiations, however, remained access to funding.

65. After the presentations the participants split into working groups organized according to the four areas in the "Conclusions and recommendations" section of the technical paper referred to in paragraph 15 above. Each group selected a rapporteur to report back to the plenary.

1. Capacity-building and awareness-raising

66. The participants agreed that training on negotiation skills and guidance on how to interpret negotiating texts were especially helpful. Previous training activities that participants had benefited from included a "Listening and learning dialogue" organized by the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice; training courses and workshops on negotiations organized by UNDP and with WDF support; and training events on gender mainstreaming in climate action that were conducted by UN Women. Understanding and interpreting negotiating texts remained a challenge for many delegates, and the working group called for the expansion of existing efforts and the creation of new training and capacity-building opportunities to support delegates, especially women, to overcome that barrier to meaningful participation.

67. The working group further called for awareness-raising, especially among men, so that they too were empowered to play an active role in improving and advocating for women's involvement and representation in climate change negotiations.

68. The participants further highlighted the need for effective and sustainable capacity-building on gender at the ground level, including general awareness-raising on gender and climate change and, more specifically, on how to integrate gender considerations in projects and programmes and on how to write proposals and access the funding opportunities available.

2. Networking and sharing experience

69. The members of the working group shared their experiences with networking at the regional level (e.g. European Union networks designed to promote the understanding of gender issues), as well as at the national and community level, stressing the importance of building connections and interlinkages. The elements that were key to effective networking included opportunities for exchanging best practices at the international, national and local level, for increasing personal visibility and for building connections through active participation in network activities.

3. Funding

70. The participants agreed that funding was a major obstacle to women's participation and that a mapping of successful existing initiatives, such as the training conducted by the International Institute for Environment and Development for delegates from the LDCs, could be beneficial in strengthening and aligning a country's climate change and gender agendas. Initiatives such as the WDF had been successful in large part because the financial support from an increasing number of donor countries was complemented by the multiplying effect of a growing network and a strong cohort of trained women delegates who could participate regularly in the UNFCCC process.

71. Although individuals and countries were able to benefit significantly from dedicated travel fund support for women delegates, there was also a risk that the existence of such travel funds might discourage countries from taking national action to improve gender balance in their delegations. A more proactive approach by Parties was called for, and it was suggested to revisit the issue of gender-balanced funding allocation for participation during the review of the gender action plan at COP 25.

4. Temporary special measures

72. The members of the working group discussed examples of temporary measures that had been introduced in their national contexts. Thus, an informal quota of 20 per cent female representation in government bodies had been adopted in China. The President of Indonesia, who participated in the HeForShe campaign launched by UN Women, had appointed eight female ministers. Those efforts were, however, not being formally tracked and had not been institutionalized. In Kenya, a quota of 30 per cent of either sex in all government bodies was enshrined in the constitution, but the political will to enforce the quota was lacking.

73. Positive experiences were reported for Zimbabwe, which had established a quota of 30 per cent female representatives in its Parliament, and Ireland, which had introduced a quota requiring each qualified party to include at least 30 per cent of its candidates from either sex, with reduced funding as a sanction if the requirement was not met.

74. The working group agreed that in the absence of formal measures, the cultural and social understanding of, and support for, women's equal participation in the political sphere played a critical role. The example of New Zealand was cited, where no quota was in place, but where the dominant cultural perception of women as active agents across all spheres of society was believed to have contributed to the fact that the country's delegation to the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies comprised 75 per cent women.

75. Addressing gender stereotypes, perceptions and roles was something that could partly be done through temporary measures, but it also required additional action and efforts. In particular, it was noted that female politicians and delegates were often held to higher standards than men and were expected to fulfil certain roles. Enabling environments must be provided for both women and men to reconcile their professional commitments with responsibilities for unpaid caregiving work at home.

76. The participants noted that, despite the goal of gender-balanced representation in the UNFCCC process, it appeared from the discussions that no Party had as yet taken concrete steps to ensure that the goal could be reached.

5. Policies and measures

77. The working group identified two major barriers to nominating women to national delegations. First, female experts were underrepresented in the field of climate change, which should be addressed through capacity-building and mentoring, as well as by promoting young women's engagement in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Second, even when female experts were available their expertise was often not recognized or valued.

78. As there were no official requirements or legal mandates for achieving gender parity in delegations at the international level, it was important for such processes to be set in motion at the national level.

79. Lastly, the working group called for gender parity efforts to be expanded to include monitoring and to be complemented by targets for other underrepresented groups such as indigenous peoples, as well as for enhanced awareness-raising on the requirements and procedures for participation in the WDF.

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Item 20(c) of the provisional agenda
Administrative, financial and institutional matters
Budgetary matters

Update on possible approaches to prioritization and budgetary implications of decisions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary bodies

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides updated information on possible approaches to prioritization and budgetary implications of decisions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary taking into account comments made by Parties at informal group meetings on budgetary matters at the first part of the forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

GE.18-12693(E)

1812693

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at the first part of its forty-eighth session, took note of the information contained in document FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.2 on possible approaches to prioritization and budgetary implications of decisions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary bodies. It requested the secretariat to update the document, taking into account the comments made by Parties at informal group meetings at SBI 48.1, for consideration at SBI 49.[1]

2. Document FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.2 presented the information in two parts:

(a) The first part provided three possible approaches to prioritization, namely ranking activities and mandates, adopting practices from other United Nations organizations, and prioritizing mandates on the basis of when they were issued;

(b) The second part provided three options for managing the budgetary implications of decisions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary bodies, namely the secretariat providing at each session a simple one-page list of standard cost information for typical activities, providing as soon as possible information on budgetary implications for draft texts, or providing before their adoption information on the budgetary implications of draft decisions and conclusions.

3. This document provides updated information on possible approaches to prioritization (chapter II) and budgetary implications of decisions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary bodies (chapter III).

II. Possible approaches to prioritization

4. At SBI 48.1, Parties acknowledged that prioritizing mandates is a complex task and that there is no simple mechanism for establishing prioritization criteria agreed upon by all Parties.

5. Given the difficulty of unanimously agreeing on a clear prioritization of mandated activities, the secretariat is currently undertaking analytical work to map its activities and their underlying mandates. The secretariat is also reviewing the synergy of its activities with a view to reducing redundancies and increasing cost efficiency.

6. Future opportunities for the secretariat to streamline its work may arise from decisions taken at the twenty-fourth and future sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the design of the organizational architecture for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

7. The results of the efforts outlined above, including any decisions taken at COP 24, will inform the development of specific options for prioritization and the preparation of the secretariat's programme budget for 2020–2021.

III. Budgetary implications of decisions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary bodies

8. With regard to enhancing the transparency of the cost of secretariat activities, Parties considered two matters: the provision of a standard cost list, and the timing of the provision of information on budgetary implications.

9. Providing more information on the cost of activities in advance would enable Parties to take that information into account when making decisions on proposed activities and new mandates; serve to clarify, through estimated financial information, the scale and scope of proposed activities; and facilitate better analysis of activities in advance of decision-making.

10. Secretariat staff supporting Parties in their consideration of agenda items at sessions of the governing and subsidiary bodies are required as per internal procedures to identify the budgetary implications of draft decisions and conclusions of the governing bodies and draft

[1] FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraphs 153 and 155.

conclusions of the subsidiary bodies as early as possible and to inform the chairs of the corresponding in-session informal groups of the availability of relevant information. The chairs decide when during the negotiations to share the available information with their group. They are encouraged to share the information early and no later than at the last meeting of the group. Furthermore, at the last plenary meeting of each session of a governing or subsidiary body, the secretariat provides an oral summary report on the budgetary implications of decisions and conclusions adopted at the session.

11. Parties could request the secretariat to provide budgetary cost implications in pre-session documents if they include suggestions for new mandates to the secretariat and if sufficient information is available on the details of the proposed activities.

12. Upon Parties' request, the secretariat can provide a one-page list detailing the standard cost of typical activities such as organizing workshops and meetings, preparing papers, conducting reviews and developing platforms. Some such information, for example on the standard cost of participation in meetings held in Bonn versus those held elsewhere, is currently provided in the biennial programme budget documents.

IV. Conclusions

13. The secretariat will follow the guidance of the SBI on possible approaches to prioritizing mandated activities and will continue efforts to make the allocation of resources clearer and more transparent.

14. Considering the options provided thus far for managing the budgetary implications of the decisions and conclusions of the governing bodies and conclusions of the subsidiary bodies, Parties may wish to request the secretariat to provide such information as may be required to ensure that the budgetary implications of decisions and conclusions, including those proposed in pre-session documents, can be taken into account in decision-making.

15. The secretariat will continue to review its mandates and activities with a view to ensuring their relevance and efficiency and would welcome any further guidance from Parties.

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Update on possible enhancements to the presentation of the budget and work programme for the biennium 2020–2021

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides updated information on matters raised by Parties in informal group meetings on budgetary matters at the first part of the forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation relating to possible enhancements to the presentation of the budget and work programme for the biennium 2020–2021.

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1819754

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at the first part of its forty-eighth session, took note of the information contained in the note by the secretariat on possible enhancements to the presentation of the budget and work programme for the biennium 2020–2021.[1] It requested the secretariat to update the document.[2]

2. This document represents that update.

II. Context

3. The secretariat continues to strive to increase the level of transparency and clarity in the presentation of the budget, especially with regard to how resources are allocated to the activities.

4. Document FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.4 outlined the following proposed enhancements to the presentation of the budget format, which were illustrated in a sample outline of the new budget document format contained in the addendum to that document:

(a) Key elements of the required budget decision are in the main part of the budget document;

(b) The organizational structure of the secretariat is in the main part of the budget document;

(c) A consolidated and concise overview of all funding and staffing is provided;

(d) Indicative contributions, by Party, are provided for each scenario in the main budget document as an annex;

(e) Scenarios are presented in the same part of the document as opposed to placing the zero nominal growth scenario in an annex;

(f) A glossary of terms and a list of abbreviations are provided to enhance clarity.

5. In considering improvements to the transparency and clarity in the presentation of the budget, Parties sought greater clarity on the principles and practice of structures and activities funded from core and supplementary resources and the interlinkages.

6. It was also noted that the budget document, which is complex and can be difficult to understand, could be enhanced by adding graphics, charts, snapshots and summaries.

III. Constructing the 2020–2021 budget

7. Taking into account the comments of Parties as well as best practices in other organizations, the secretariat has been further refining its approach to the budget with a view to presenting information in a more integrated manner for the 2020–2021 programme budget.

8. Specifically, the secretariat intends to articulate in a clearer manner the following aspects of the budget:

(a) At the outset, the budget document will include a clear narrative explanation of how the secretariat expects the needs for support to the intergovernmental process to evolve in the budget period. The narrative explanation will be based on the decisions and expectations of Parties on the key deliverables in that period, in particular in relation to the operationalization of the Paris Agreement. It will also include support by the secretariat to

[1] FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.4 and Add.1.

[2] FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraphs 154 and 155.

facilitate collaboration among Parties and between Parties and other stakeholders under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;

(b) The budget document will describe the principles used in the proposed allocation of core resources and supplementary funding with a view to making clear the distinction between functions that should be funded from core resources and those that require supplementary funding;

(c) In setting out budget scenarios, including a zero nominal growth scenario, the budget document will clearly explain for each scenario in an integrated manner what can be delivered in terms of the proposed key objectives for 2020–2021, and how core and supplementary resources would be allocated in a balanced manner;

(d) All key information, including summary information with graphic elements, will be presented in the main part of the document, with details provided in annexes.

9. To achieve more clarity and transparency in presenting the budget for the biennium 2020–2021, the secretariat is reviewing best practices of other United Nations entities, including organizations that have adopted an integrated resources and results framework.

IV. Next steps

10. The secretariat will continue to refine the structure of the budget document presented in document FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.4/Add.1 bearing in mind the approach outlined above.

11. The secretariat is committed to developing the 2020–2021 budget transparently and intends to reach out to Parties in 2019, well before SBI 50 (June 2019), for feedback on the overall approach, format and budget levels.

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Update on ways to increase the efficiency and transparency of the budget process

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides updated information on ways to increase the efficiency and transparency of the budget process taking into account comments made by Parties at informal group meetings on budgetary matters at the first part of the forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

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I. Introduction

1. At the first part of its forty-eighth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took note of the information contained in document FCCC/SBI/2018/2 on the technical workshop on ways to increase the efficiency and transparency of the budget process. It requested the secretariat to update the document taking into account comments made by Parties at SBI 48.1, for consideration at SBI 49.[1]

2. The workshop covered:

(a) Options for increasing the flexibility of the funds in the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities;

(b) Approaches to addressing outstanding contributions to the core budget;

(c) The level of the working capital reserve;

(d) The allocation of resources under the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNFCCC and the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities;

(e) The Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process.

3. This document provides updated information on related matters raised by Parties in informal group meetings on budgetary matters at SBI 48.1 and focuses on (1) activities that the secretariat is undertaking to clarify the principles of allocating core and supplementary resources, and (2) the use of payment plans to address the high level of outstanding contributions to the core budget.

II. Review of the allocation of resources

4. In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness, the secretariat is undertaking an internal review of its operations and structure to ensure that it is in a position to fully respond to the needs of Parties in their efforts to operationalize the Paris Agreement in the coming years. The review is taking into consideration the wider United Nations system reform of its management structures and administrative processes to make the secretariat a more nimble, effective, transparent, accountable, efficient and pragmatic organization.

5. The outcome of the review will inform the preparation of the secretariat's programme budget for 2020–2021, which will present information in a manner that clearly and transparently demonstrates how resources will be allocated in order for the secretariat to deliver on its mandates and fulfil its purpose.

6. Continuing the practice established in the development of the programme budget for the current biennium, the secretariat will communicate with Parties in a transparent and inclusive manner on the approaches to preparing the programme budget for 2020–2021 and allocating resources.

III. Possible approaches to addressing the high level of outstanding contributions to the UNFCCC core budget

7. Parties are concerned about how late and long-outstanding indicative contributions to the core budget might affect the secretariat's ability to implement its activities in a timely manner.

8. In reviewing the 2017 financial statements, while noting the efforts of the secretariat to address outstanding contributions thus far, the United Nations Board of Auditors recommended that the UNFCCC consider additional suitable collaborative measures such as payment plans to ensure the timely recovery of outstanding contributions.[2]

[1] FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraphs 152 and 155.

[2] See document FCCC/SBI/2018/INF.11.

A. Payment plans at the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations entities

1. United Nations Secretariat

9. The United Nations Secretariat has considered using multi-year payment plans to address arrears on a number of occasions, particularly through its Committee on Contributions in 2001[3] and 2002.[4]

10. A report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations[5] and the subsequent report of the Committee on Contributions[6] contain useful summaries of the issues considered. Plan duration, the nature and timing of payments, and review procedures and measures to be taken in the event of defaulting on such plans were considered in the reports. These considerations resulted in a resolution[7] endorsing the conclusions of the report of the Committee on Contributions[8] encouraging the use of multi-year payment plans. The Committee concluded that "United Nations Member States should be encouraged to submit multi-year payment plans, which constitute a useful tool for reducing their unpaid assessed contributions and a way for them to demonstrate their commitment to meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations".[9]

11. The Committee recommended that "due consideration be given to the economic position of Member States, as not all of them might be in a position to submit such plans" and that such plans should remain voluntary and not automatically be linked to other measures.

12. The Committee also recommended that such plans be submitted to the Secretary-General for the information of other United Nations Member States, and that Member States be encouraged to consult the United Nations Secretariat for advice in preparing their plans. Where possible, such plans should include payment of the current year's assessments and a portion of the arrears, and should provide for payment of the arrears within a period of six years.

13. In relation to indexation and interest on arrears, the Committee recalled in particular its conclusion that, if the United Nations General Assembly decided to introduce interest charges on arrears, the rate should be fixed at a low level (annual rate not exceeding 1 per cent) and should not be applied retroactively.

14. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit an annual report to the General Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions, on the status of Member States' payment plans as at 31 December each year. Such reports have been regularly submitted and the General Assembly has continued, in subsequent resolutions, to reaffirm the use of such plans.

15. Most recently, in the 2017 report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans,[10] Member States with significant arrears in contributions were encouraged to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan.

2. Other United Nations entities

16. The Committee on Contributions, in its 2001 report,[11] noted that multi-year payment plans are also a feature of other organizations in the United Nations system, and in the addendum to that report provided a survey of other United Nations and multilateral organizations with measures in place to address the payment of arrears. The principal measure was the encouragement of members to arrange some form of payment plan as a

[3] See United Nations General Assembly document A/56/11.
[4] See United Nations General Assembly document A/57/11.
[5] United Nations General Assembly document A/57/65.
[6] United Nations General Assembly document A/57/11.
[7] United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/57/4 B.
[8] United Nations General Assembly document A/57/11, paragraphs 17–23.
[9] United Nations General Assembly document A/57/11, paragraph 17.
[10] United Nations General Assembly document A/72/71.
[11] United Nations General Assembly document A/56/11/Add.1.

means of showing commitment to their obligations and in order to forestall or prevent withdrawal of voting rights. Organizations with similar arrangements surveyed at the time were the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the Organization of American States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Universal Postal Union, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the World Trade Organization.

17. In 2012 the secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) presented a report to its Conference of the Parties[12] on arrears in the payment of assessed contributions, which included a review of relevant practice in the United Nations system and under other international treaties.

18. In relation to various incentive schemes, such as the allocation of budget in relation to a contributor's payment record to support meeting attendance or other activities, it was noted that, while several organizations use such incentives, "the overall arrears position has not improved significantly despite the introduction of an incentive scheme for prompt payment of contributions".[13]

19. It was also noted that a number of organizations and international treaties use penalties, such as withdrawal of voting rights, often in combination with payment schedules that permit voting rights to continue if the party concerned shows the intention to reduce or eliminate its arrears over an agreed period of time.

20. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is reported as using such measures, urging its parties to enter into a mutually agreed schedule of payments in order to clear their arrears. The Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions also encourage payment schedules, and other measures to be determined by their Conferences of the Parties may be applied providing the party concerned is not a least developed country or a small island developing State.

21. Conventions applying stricter measures include the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the International Whaling Commission, which have the mandate to suspend the voting rights of parties that have not paid their dues and which may apply additional measures, including interest charges. The Convention on Biological Diversity may apply additional measures, including restricting the number of delegates at meetings and limiting their funding for attendance.

22. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal withdraws membership from any bureau after two years and voting rights after four years of arrears, except for parties that have agreed to multi-year payment plans or are least developed countries or small island developing States.

23. Most treaty secretariats use measures to facilitate the payment of contributions, including early invoicing, regular reminders and contact with missions. Some provide updates on the status of contributions on their websites.

B. Possible use of payment plans at the secretariat

24. The objective of implementing payment plan procedures at the secretariat would be to encourage Parties to demonstrate their commitment to meeting their financial obligations and to pay their outstanding contributions from prior years in accordance with a specified schedule. This would facilitate regular reporting and help reduce the level of outstanding contributions to the core budget through a mutually approved and agreed process. An increase in the predictability of the receipt of funding would in turn reduce the need to increase the level of the working capital reserve.

[12] See FCTC document FCTC/COP/5/21.

[13] FCTC document FCTC/COP/5/21, paragraph 13.

25. Parties may wish to request the secretariat to establish formal procedures to guide and support the implementation of multi-year payment plans for arrears. Such procedures would need to address several issues, including: whether outstanding contributions should have an effect on voting rights; provisions for establishing payment plans and other options related to the timing of payments of contributions; whether authority should be delegated to the Executive Secretary to agree repayment plans with Parties; and the reporting and monitoring of the implementation of repayment plans.

IV. Conclusions

26. The secretariat will continue to evaluate and pursue various means of increasing the efficiency and transparency of the budget process, culminating in the presentation of its programme budget for 2020–2021 based on the draft illustrative format presented to Parties at the informal group meetings on budgetary matters at SBI 48.1.

27. Should the Conference of the Parties (COP) wish to introduce formal payment plans as a means of encouraging payment of arrears in contributions, the secretariat will take the necessary measures to establish and approve relevant procedures and guidelines.

28. The guidance for consideration and adoption by the COP could include the following provisions:

(a) Annual contributions are due on 1 January of each year. Where a Party has fallen into arrears as defined by the financial procedures, and wishes to demonstrate its commitment to meeting its responsibilities under the Convention, it could be encouraged to agree to a payment plan;

(b) The payment plan referred to in paragraph 28(a) above could include payment of each year's annual contribution in full plus an amount towards the payment of the outstanding contributions to provide for the elimination of outstanding contributions within a set period of time, such as six years;

(c) The Executive Secretary could be provided with the authority to encourage Parties to consider submitting payment plans on a voluntary basis and to negotiate such plans or provide support for their development;

(d) Parties could be encouraged to consult the secretariat for advice in preparing their payment plans;

(e) The Executive Secretary could be requested to provide a report to the COP on all outstanding contributions and related payment plans as at 31 December each year.

29. The SBI and the COP could also consider additional measures linked to payment plans, such as the provision of additional budgetary support for meetings, the reduction of attendance or other measures to be determined that could encourage the timely, full and unconditional payment of assessed contributions.

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Item 20(d) of the provisional agenda
Administrative, financial and institutional matters
Continuous review of the functions and operations of the secretariat

Update on annual report preparation

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document summarizes issues raised by Parties in relation to the first ever annual report on the secretariat's activities in 2017, which included programme delivery highlights and summary financial performance data. The annual report was made available by the secretariat before the first part of the forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, held in April and May 2018. It proposes suggestions for enhancements to future annual reports in response to the issues raised by Parties.

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I. Background

1. In a note to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its forty-fifth session, the secretariat presented possible ways to increase the efficiency and transparency of the budget process and enhance the budget documentation. They included preparing and publishing annual reports, providing succinct information on the secretariat's activities in the preceding year and presenting programme delivery highlights and financial performance to facilitate the understanding of a broad range of stakeholders and interested observers with regard to what the secretariat is delivering and the challenges it is facing. The note further stated that annual reports would contribute to improved outreach and provide the public, the media and non-governmental organizations with information on the UNFCCC process, and that introducing them would enhance the overall transparency of the secretariat and the UNFCCC process and provide additional performance and financial information to Parties.[1]

2. On the basis of that proposal, the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its twenty-third session, requested the secretariat to prepare and make available an annual report as outlined in document FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.14, paragraph 37, to be considered at each session of the SBI following the closure of the preceding financial year, providing information on the secretariat's activities in the preceding year, programme delivery highlights and financial performance.[2]

3. In response to this mandate, the secretariat produced the first annual report - for the year 2017 – and made it available at SBI 48.1, held in April and May 2018. A web version of the report has subsequently also been made available.[3]

4. SBI 48.1 took note of the 2017 annual report and noted that while the report attempted to respond to the mandate contained in decision 21/CP.23, paragraph 18, future reports require enhancements, to be considered at SBI 49.[4]

II. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI is invited to consider the enhancements to the annual report proposed in this note with a view to providing guidance to the secretariat on this matter.

III. Issues raised by Parties

6. Issues with the annual report raised by Parties at SBI 48.1 included the terminology used in relation to the UNFCCC and the secretariat, the scope of the report, the level of detail of financial information provided on pages 48 and 49 and the timing of the report.

7. In relation to the terminology used in the annual report, the secretariat clarified that "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", abbreviated as "UNFCCC", remains the official name of the Convention, which is used in official documents prepared for or emanating from UNFCCC governing and subsidiary bodies and in legal instruments. In the annual report, the secretariat had sought ways to refer to the UNFCCC and its secretariat in a more succinct manner, in particular for the purpose of communicating to the broader public. In this context, the terms "United Nations Climate Change" and "UN Climate Change" were used as shorthand forms to make the report easier to read and understand and did not represent a change in the official name of the Convention.

8. Regarding the scope of the annual report, concerns were raised that the report could be perceived to include efforts of the United Nations beyond the activities of the secretariat and the UNFCCC process. The secretariat clarified that the annual report was intended to

[1] FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.14, paragraph 37.
[2] Decision 21/CP.23, paragraph 18.
[3] https://unfccc.int/resource/annualreport/.
[4] FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 151.

provide an overview of the secretariat activities and programme delivery highlights as well as to highlight activities conducted within the UNFCCC institutional framework. As such, the report was part of an effort to improve outreach and provide the public, media and non-governmental organizations with easily understandable information on progress and achievements made within that framework.

9. Party comments on the financial information presented had to do with the clarity and detail of the presented data. Suggestions were made to include additional data, for example on secretariat staffing, as well as key financial data that would help the audience assess performance against the financial resources allocated.

10. The secretariat expressed its appreciation for the feedback received and agreed to consider possible enhancements to future reports.

IV. Proposed enhancements to the annual report

11. On the basis of the feedback received from the Parties at SBI 48.1, the secretariat is planning to introduce the following enhancements to annual reports:

(a) The annual report will include the following enhancements in relation to terminology:

(i) On its cover and back pages, the report will display the official name "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" in conjunction with the official UNFCCC logo;

(ii) To allow for effective communication to a broad audience, including the general public, the title of the report will continue to be "UN Climate Change Annual Report [year]";

(iii) Relevant terms used in the annual report will be clearly explained at the front and the back of the report to ensure clarity;

(b) The introductory section of the annual report will include a note that the scope of the report encompasses key achievements within the UNFCCC institutional framework and the performance of the secretariat;

(c) The financial information provided will include additional key financial data, bearing in mind that the annual report is intended not for a technical audience but rather for a broader group of stakeholders and interested observers, and that it is not intended to replace the secretariat's official reports on income and budget performance;

(d) The report will be made available in a timely manner before the first sessions of the subsidiary bodies each year.